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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/617,829

07/14/2003

Daniel De Lichana

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38598

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05/24/2010

ANDREWS KURTH LLP

1350 I STREET, N.W.

SUITE 1100

WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

SITTNER, MATTHEW T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/24/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/617,829	Applicant(s) LICHANA, DANIEL DE	
	Examiner MATTHEW SITTNER	Art Unit 3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 March 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 49-60 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 49-60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 March 2010 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03/25/2010 has been entered.

Status of Claims

2. Claims 1-48 are canceled.
3. Claims 49-60 are new.
4. Claims 49-60 are pending and have been examined.
5. This action is in reply to the papers filed on 03/25/2010.

Amendment

6. The present Office Action is based upon the original patent application filed on 07/14/2003 as modified by the amendment filed on 03/25/2010.

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Drawings

7. Color photographs and color drawings are not accepted unless a petition filed under 37 CFR 1.84(a)(2) is granted. Any such petition must be accompanied by the appropriate fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h), three sets of color drawings or color photographs, as appropriate, and, unless already present, an amendment to include the following language as the first paragraph of the brief description of the drawings section of the specification:

The patent or application file contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent or patent application publication with color drawing(s) will be provided by the Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee.

Color photographs will be accepted if the conditions for accepting color drawings and black and white photographs have been satisfied. See 37 CFR 1.84(b)(2).

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in **Graham v. John Deere Co., 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966)**, that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows: (*See MPEP Ch. 2141*)

- a. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art;
- b. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims in issue;
- c. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art; and
- d. Evaluating evidence of secondary considerations for indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

9. Claims 49-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over:

Orr et al. US PGPub. 2003/0061012 (**Orr**).

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Claim 49 (New). A land use planning system implemented on a computer to develop land and create trade specifications for service providers to build infrastructure upon land, comprising:

Orr et al. US PGPub. 2003/0061012 (Orr).

Orr discloses a method and system for performing four-dimensional, multiple consequence assessments of change in selected spaces.

ABSTRACT:

The present invention relates to a method of providing or updating a digital comprehensive plan for past, present and/or future community development or planning that is self-contained and capable of direct updating by inputting data into an interface control module, processing the data using the interface control module, developing digital models of at least one scenario based upon the processed data, and producing representative models of digital models.

a processor to implement land-use planning including providing information to a builder service provider, wherein a piece of land is identified;

Orr discloses a processor capable of performing the claimed features [0044].

a tangible computer readable medium with instructions embodied therein comprising:

Orr discloses a computer system which includes a computer readable medium and processor [0009 – computer-resident model, 0044 – computer hardware, processors, 0051 – computer hardware, 0056 – computer resident interactive interfaces, 0080 – computer].

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(a) balance sheet computational tool for implementing on a computer wherein the computational tool ranks quality of service for a category of service and wherein the computational tool creates a qualitative and quantitative balance sheet and the qualitative and quantitative balance sheet includes data, such included data having been gathered and stored in the qualitative and quantitative balance sheet; and

Examiner construes everything following wherein... as non-functional data and intended use limitations. In system and apparatus claims, non-functional data and intended use limitation are given little to no patentable weight. Any reference disclosing a balance sheet computation tool would anticipate these claimed features.

For example, an electronic spreadsheet would be capable of performing the claimed features.

Examiner takes official notice that an electronic spreadsheet (i.e., MS Excel, Oracle, MS Access, etc...) is capable of performing the balance sheet features claimed. Specifically, any spreadsheet has tools for ranking and sorting.

Orr discloses analyzing [0047-0048, 0123] and assessing [0115, claims 7 and 9] data. These features are construed as the claimed qualitative and quantitative features.

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(b) a grid tool for implementing on a computer wherein a three dimensional assessment grid is generated by a computer having three axis, the three axis representing x=human, y=economic and z = environmental, wherein the assessment grid shows assessed values of the present land use service data within sectors, wherein the assessment grid includes data;

Orr discloses tools for generating on a computer three and four dimensional models representative of various data necessary to model land use activities including human, economic, and environmental [0026; 0044; 0047 – human and environmental impacts; 0054 – three dimensional; 0060 – 3 dimensional representations of pop. growth, spatial changes, etc...; 0061; 0069; 0072; 0082; etc...].

[0047] The method 125 and the system 135 can be used to model any past, present and/or future interactions between any human-caused environmental impacts (such as population changes, infrastructure changes, traffic patterns, resource consumption and flows, agricultural patterns, water uses, etc.) and any natural environmental impacts (such as groundwater resources, forest type/productivity, weather changes, extreme weather events, climate changes, fire regimes, wetland presence and health, habitat type and health, geology, etc.). The method 125 and the system 135 may also be used to express a plurality of concerns as instructions to the system to portray, evaluate, assess or otherwise analyze the impact of a range of human activities on the natural environment for a variety of time domains.

[0048] Additionally, the method 125 and the system 135 can be used to portray, evaluate, assess or otherwise analyze the impacts for a range of naturally occurring events on the built or natural environment for a variety of time domains. It may include past, present and/or future interactions among attributes within the built, human-constructed or altered environment or within the natural environment, or any past, present and/or future external impacts on any space, place or community under consideration.

[0060] The ICM 200 can also be used to provide the User 100 a list of models, required data, other information and/or choices that the User 100 desires. The models may be numeric, spatial or 3 - Dimensional representations of population growth, spatial changes in surface, subsurface or above ground attributes, natural events such as floods, fires, weather disasters, hydrology, traffic patterns, per-capita attributes, financial, or others. The desired data may be population, population attributes, multiple land use conditions and/or attributes, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) layers, financial and/or any information necessary to fully define the attributes, relationships and range of external impacts for the space under consideration. In this example, the GUIs 201 can be used to query the User 100 for any number of issues including issues of concern, rating of these issues as to priority, selected time frames, attributes, relationship algorithms and other relevant information. The GUIs 201 can also be used to conform the information inputted to a format usable by the VComP Module 300.

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Orr at [0082] discloses displaying information in three dimensions using an x, y, and z axis. Further, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to display information on such a three dimensional axis using a plurality of information such as claimed human factors, economic factors and environmental factors.

Orr at [0066] further discloses the value of evaluating human, economic and environmental factors and data and how they impact each other. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to present this information in three dimensions on the x, y, z axis disclosed by Orr at [0082].

[0066] The VComP Module 300 can also use natural environment data such as species type, distribution densities, ecosystem baseline and change information and other natural resource data in GIS database to evaluate past, present and/or future impacts on ecosystems of alternative human or natural activities and events sorted by economic, social and environmental categories. For instance, urban encroachment and changing weather regions may individually or collectively have a variety of impacts on the natural environment and natural resources.

Orr at [0102] also discloses simulating scenarios involving economic, human and environmental occurrences and events.

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a memory, for storing data for access by a software program, having a relational database wherein services information is stored;

Orr discloses a database/memory for storing information [0066, 0088 – internal/external data storage, 0107 – alternative data storage locations, 0158 – database].

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Orr may or may not expressly disclose the following:

a direct link stored in the relational database directly linking a first entity to the piece of land wherein the direct link includes text or symbols; an indirect link stored in the relational database linking a second entity to the first entity so that the second entity is indirectly linked to the piece of land; wherein the data included in the qualitative and quantitative balance sheet and the data included in the assessment grid are combined and direct and indirect links between and among the various entities are identified and stored in the relational database; data representing a city infrastructure stored in the relational database, wherein the relational database includes data on services, wherein the direct and indirect links help define service information for the identified piece of land and wherein one of the services is the city infrastructure;

However, Orr does disclose defining relationships [0009]. He discloses links between future planning and decision making [0015]. See also Orr at [0016, 0060, 0094 – determine and respond to the spatial relationships among various attributes].

Further, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to define links or relationships between entities and/or between entities and physical space and to store that data in a database. For example, a link may be the distance between two locations or two structures. Or a link may define the legal relationship between property (e.g., Greenacre has an access easement to use road over Blackacre).

As claimed, links are abstract descriptions which define relationships. Thus, the scope of the presently claimed links is INFINITE as the examiner can conceive of limitless links which define the relationship between entities.

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Examiner construes links to merely represent or define a relationship. Links are not anything physical or concrete. See Applicant's specification at US PGPub.

2004/0117777 [0053; 0093].

[0053] In one aspect, the Systems and Methods For Land-Use Development, Planning and Management is a framework for optimizing use of resources in a physical space comprising: links that link entities, having a relationship with a physical space, where the links define a relationship between two or more entities or between an entity and the physical space; and a feedback loop that allows user input or consumer feedback to be used in order to optimize one of consumer satisfaction and quality of life in services offered or proposed to be offered to consumers located in the physical space.

[0093] In one embodiment, the systems and methods are a framework 106 or infrastructure to link private infrastructure, public infrastructure and/or their surrounding environs. As seen in FIG. 2, the framework 106 comprises a list of links. The links identify or link two or more entities, or link an entity with the physical space. The links may be direct or indirect links. For example, link 208 directly links an entity 202 to the physical space 204, but link 208 indirectly links entity 202 to physical space 204. The links may be stored in a database, a relational database, or hyperlink storage as hyperlinks. The links may be two-way and comprise text and/or symbols. As discussed in more detail in the remaining figures and detailed description, the framework 106 manages the links, the management may be conducted centrally or de-centrally.

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wherein the identification of the piece of land is stored in the memory;

Orr discloses a database/memory for storing information [0066, 0088 – internal/external data storage, 0107 – alternative data storage locations, 0158 – database].

a builder service provider trade specification chart wherein the qualitative and quantitative balance sheet and the relational database are used to generate the builder service provider trade specification chart, wherein the builder service provider trade specification chart includes data on the services to be provided by the builder and a graphics representation for the builder to use in providing services; and

Examiner construes everything following wherein... as non-functional data and intended use limitations. In system and apparatus claims, non-functional data and intended use limitation are given little to no patentable weight. Any reference disclosing a balance sheet computation tool would anticipate these claimed features.

For example, an electronic spreadsheet would be capable of performing the claimed features.

Examiner takes official notice that an electronic spreadsheet (i.e., MS Excel, Oracle, MS Access, etc...) is capable of performing the balance sheet features claimed. Specifically, any spreadsheet has tools for creating charts and graphics.

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a display for displaying a builder service provider trade specification chart, wherein the builder service provider trade specification chart is used by a builder service provider to construct a building.

Orr discloses displays capable of displaying the claimed data [0064; 0068; 0132 – GUI display; 0135-0136; claims 16 – displaying the representative models visually; claim 17].

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Claim 50 (New). The system of claim 49, further comprising the identified piece of land.

Orr discloses identifying a particular piece land by boundaries and other attributes [0088].

Further, Examiner takes official notice that identifying a piece of land for development is an obvious and necessary step in land use planning and development.

Claim 51 (New). The system of claim 49, further comprising the constructed building.

Orr discloses building algorithms and building type [0103].

Claim 52 (New). The system of claim 49, further comprising a 3D virtual reality tool for viewing the building to be constructed on the display.

Orr discloses three-dimensional virtual technologies for displaying output [0054; 0135-0136 – virtual reality].

[0135] A Visualization Module (VM) 501, which makes up part of the FO 500, can be used to provide single or multiple displays for User 100 of any or all of the DComP representative models. The displays provided by the VM 501 can include but are not limited to maps in GIS compatible or other formats, three dimensional models using any number of internal or commercially available software, overlays, which may be maps applied to any spatial or three dimensional representation to portray, extract or highlight any variety of existing, historical and/or proposed attributes.

[0136] The displays of the VM 501 may be of any timeframe as appropriate to illustrate a scenario or outcome or any number of immersive, virtual reality, holographic, or other communication media which effectively convey complex information to a lay or expert audience. These displays can basically be used to aid in visualizing any range of attributes, relationships, external factors and time periods defining a space responding to a plurality of decisions which the User 100 may be considering.

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Orr may or may not expressly disclose the following:

Claim 53 (New). The system of claim 49, further comprising an evolution grid and an operational specification chart, wherein each of the operational specification chart and evolution grid are generated using the relational database and are generated prior to the generation of the builder service provider trade specification chart.

Examiner construes everything following wherein... as non-functional data and intended use limitations. In system and apparatus claims, non-functional data and intended use limitation are given little to no patentable weight. Any reference disclosing a balance sheet computation tool would anticipate these claimed features.

For example, an electronic spreadsheet would be capable of performing the claimed features.

Examiner takes official notice that an electronic spreadsheet (i.e., MS Excel, Oracle, MS Access, etc...) is capable of performing the balance sheet features claimed. Specifically, many spreadsheets have tools for creating grids and charts.

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Claim 54 (New). The system of claim 49, further comprising a modeling tool.

Orr discloses modeling tools [0002; 0009; 0023-0026; etc...].

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Orr may or may not expressly disclose the following:

Claim 55 (New). The system of claim 49, wherein one or more of the direct links has a two-way bi-directional relationship.

However, Orr does disclose defining relationships [0009]. He discloses links between future planning and decision making [0015]. See also Orr at [0016, 0060, 0094 – determine and respond to the spatial relationships among various attributes].

Further, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to define links or relationships between entities and/or between entities and physical space and to store that data in a database. For example, a link may be the distance between two locations or two structures. Or a link may define the legal relationship between property (e.g., Greenacre has an access easement to use road over Blackacre).

As claimed, links are abstract descriptions which define relationships. Thus, the scope of the presently claimed links is INFINITE as the examiner can conceive of limitless links which define the relationship between entities.

Examiner construes links to merely represent or define a relationship. Links are not anything physical or concrete. See Applicant's specification at US PGPub.

2004/0117777 [0053; 0093].

[0053] In one aspect, the Systems and Methods For Land-Use Development, Planning and Management is a framework for optimizing use of resources in a physical space comprising : links that link entities, having a relationship with a physical space, where the links define a relationship between two or more entities or between an entity and the physical space; and a feedback loop that allows user input or consumer feedback to be used in order to optimize one of consumer satisfaction and quality of life in services offered or proposed to be offered to consumers located in the physical space.

[0093] In one embodiment, the systems and methods are a framework 106 or infrastructure to link private infrastructure, public infrastructure and/or their surrounding environs. As seen in FIG. 2, the framework 106 comprises a list of links. The links identify or link two or more entities, or link an entity with the physical space. The links may be direct or indirect links. For example, link 208 directly links an entity 202 to the physical space 204, but link 208 indirectly links entity 202 to physical space 204. The links may be

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stored in a database, a relational database, or hyperlink storage as hyperlinks. The links may be two-way and comprise text and/or symbols. As discussed in more detail in the remaining figures and detailed description, the framework 106 manages the links, the management may be conducted centrally or de-centrally.

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Claim 56 (New). The system of claim 49, wherein one or more of the direct links is a hyperlink.

Orr discloses links which directly link a description of the future of a planning domain directly to decisions made or considered in the present [0015].

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Claim 57 (New). The system of claim 49, further comprising a quality of life measurement.

Orr discloses quality of life measurements criteria and assessment [0006; 0070; 0081 – life quality assessor; 0116; 0124-0126 – Life Quality Assessor (LQA); 0155; etc...].

[0070] The DComP Interface Module 203 can also be used to access a Decision Support System (DSS) Interface Module 205 (see FIG. 4) to enable the User 100 to request activation of one or more DSS programs. The use of the DSS programs allow a User 100 to assist in any interactive opinion solicitation and collective decision making activities or to access the DComP Learning Module 206 (see FIG. 4). The DComP Interface Module 205 can also enable the User 100 to collect information by activating the system's learning capabilities or by input by the User 100. The Optimization Interface Module 207 may then in turn utilize the information in directing the Optimizing Module 600 to identify the attributes and relationships necessary to control any of one or more given future attributes, such as quality of life, governmental service level, or water conservation to generate one or more optimized scenarios.

[0081] In FIG. 6, the VComP module 300 is illustrated. As illustrated in FIG. 6, the interface control unit or module 200 can be communicatively coupled to a spatial growth calculator 301, an event calculator 302, and/or an impact calculator 303. These calculators, in turn, can be communicatively coupled to an output module 304. This output module 304 can then be communicatively coupled to a spatial attribute assessor 305, an event accessor 306, an impact accessor 307, a financial assessor 308, a resource assessor 309, and/or a life quality assessor 310. These assessors, in turn, can be communicatively coupled to the DComP module 400 and/or an optimization module 600, which in turn can be communicatively coupled back to the interface control unit or module 200.

[0124] In addition to the RA 309, a Life Quality Assessor (LQA) 310 of the VComP Module 300 can be used with or without the other modules to accept data regarding the quality of life of a simulated model. The data can include but are not limited to a plurality of indicators regarding life quality, place quality, and general public satisfaction with the attributes of a given space (hereafter indicators) or can be used with time increments past, present and/or future associated with these indicators from the OM 304 or the User 100 via the GUI 201. Other attributes of the space which may be associated with the indicators and time increments may also be assessed to determine, calculate or otherwise manipulate a plurality of relationships between indicators and the attributes.

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Claim 58 (New). The system of claim 49, wherein the first entity is a public entity and wherein the first entity comprises an organizational infrastructure including a building.

Orr discloses infrastructure [0065; 0083], various entities [0086], and governmental or public service infrastructure [0114].

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Claim 59 (New). The system of claim 49, further comprising:

a land use plan for the identified piece of land; and

wherein the tangible computer readable medium further comprises a computer software instruction set for performing an economic selection wherein economic selection is made by use of an equation $A+B-C < \text{or} = A$ for economic evaluation, wherein A represents: the cost of existing services, B represents: the increased cost due to improving a service or services, and C represents: person or entities concerned with one or more of: economy of scale realized when a service is implemented, qualitative increase in level and number of services, a rapid return on investment.

Examiner construes everything following wherein... as non-functional data and intended use limitations. In system and apparatus claims, non-functional data and intended use limitation are given little to no patentable weight. Any reference disclosing a balance sheet computation tool would anticipate these claimed features.

Orr discloses a land use planning model which includes economic evaluations and financial investments [0065-0066 – economic; 0101 – financial; 0102 – new economic scenarios; 0105 – optimize financial investments; 0110 - arranging these event scenarios by economic cost/benefit or other analytical methodology into a plurality of categories; 0123; 0157].

[0157] Using the system, the OM 600 can be automatically or a User 100 directed via the GUI 201 to transfer data to the VComP Module 300. This data transfer can be used to provide a mechanism by which other DComP representative models may be produced for User 100 evaluation and review. For land use and resource applications, the OM 600 can be used to perform numerous and repeated evaluations of the long-term consequences of a variety of economic, education, growth policies, zoning and zoning changes and other factors with specific implementation mechanisms, such as building codes, financial mechanisms, or the assignment of land for development.

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Claim 60 (New). The system of claim 49, wherein the tangible computer readable medium further comprises a computer software instruction set for performing an economic selection wherein the economic selection is made by use of an equation $A+B-C$ greater than A for economic evaluation, wherein A represents: the cost of existing services, B represents: the increased cost due to improving a service or services, and C represents: person or entities concerned with one or more of: economy of scale realized when a service is implemented, qualitative increase in level and number of services, a rapid return on investment.

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[0157] Using the system, the OM 600 can be automatically or a User 100 directed via the GUI 201 to transfer data to the VComP Module 300. This data transfer can be used to provide a mechanism by which other DComP representative models may be produced for User 100 evaluation and review. For land use and resource applications, the OM 600 can be used to perform numerous and repeated evaluations of the long-term consequences of a variety of economic, education, growth policies, zoning and zoning changes and other factors with specific implementation mechanisms, such as building codes, financial mechanisms, or the assignment of land for development.

Conclusion

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW T. SITTNER whose telephone number is (571) 270-7137. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/MATTHEW T SITTNER/
Examiner, Art Unit 3629

/JOHN G. WEISS/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3629